

PROJECT NAME: Federal Funding for the Water Research Foundation

RECIPIENT: Weber Basin Water Conservancy District

LOCATION: Layton, Utah

PURPOSE: The Foundation is the largest nonprofit drinking water research foundation in the world, and has sponsored research world-wide to make drinking water clean, affordable and available to the public. The Water Research Foundation's (Foundation) members represent 80 percent of the drinking water supply in the United States. The Foundation's work is focused on applied research on cost effective technologies to enhance drinking water technologies. Specifically, that research includes the most pressing drinking water issues such as the impacts of pharmaceutical/EDC's in water, the uncertainties associated with climate change events, the remediation of quagga and zebra mussels, drought response, desalination, wastewater reuse, preparing for natural disasters, replacing aging drinking water systems, increased energy efficiencies and treating water contaminants. Research findings are free to local, state, and federal agencies throughout the nation.

Since 1983, the Congress has provided funding to the Foundation. The Foundation leverages subscriber funding (around \$13 million annually) with federal funding, which provides a significant non-federal match to the appropriated federal dollars. Yet, because of the amount of federal research projects that the Foundation collaborates on, the federal funding is a significant help in stretching funds to ensure that the research can continue.

The primary beneficiaries of this funding for research are the consumers, as the findings from the Foundation's research are disseminated to those utilities and cities charged with supplying our water and protecting the public health. Research findings are free to local, state, and federal agencies throughout the nation.

The Foundation's work is focused on applied research on cost effective technologies to enhance drinking water technologies and drinking water quality. The Foundation's subscribers are mostly public water utilities who are tasked with ensuring that the research completed by the Foundation is focused on ensuring that drinking water is clean, affordable and available to the public.

The Foundation is a significant partner to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and they continually collaborate on drinking water research projects. Most recently, the Foundation signed a memorandum of understanding with the Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water to collaborate on research focusing on managing risks to the nation's drinking water distribution systems. This research focus came from the EPA's review of the Total Coliform Rule, which helps utilities measure the presence of dangerous bacteria in water. This research will study the impact on water quality as water travels through pipes and other water infrastructure. Previous research with the EPA focused on the arsenic standard; trace contaminants in drinking water; climate change impacts, and the microbial disinfection by-product rule.

AMOUNT: \$5,000,000